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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777,683	02/07/2001	Jan Didriksen	0459-0545P	3335

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EXAMINER
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BASS, JON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p>Office Action Summary</p>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/777,683	DIDRIKSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jon Bass	3629	

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This action is in response to "A Parcel self servicing machine" filed on February 7, 2001. Claims 1-72 are pending in the current application.

### **Information Disclosure Statement**

The examiner is considering the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-72 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gary Ramsden (464) et al. (US Patent Number 5,481,464) hereinafter referred to as Ramsden (464) in further view of Gary Ramsden (014) et al.(US Patent Number 6,105,014) hereinafter referenced as (Ramsden (014) ).

#### **As Per Claim 1:**

A postal item check-in system comprising  
a control unit having

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a central data processing unit, (fig 5, elements 102, CPUUnit)

data storage means, (fig 5, elements 102, CPUUnit)

means for communicating information to a customer, (fig 5, elements 102, CPUUnit)

means for receiving information from a customer to the control unit,

means for communicating with a global computer network, and (fig 5, elements 102, CPUUnit)

means for OCR (optical character recognition),

the system further comprising

a payment device for receiving payment from a customer, the operation of said payment device being controlled by the control unit, and (col.2, lines 43-45; payment identity information)

a printing device being enabled to print a postal delivery address, the operation of said printing device being controlled by the control unit, (fig 2, element 26; printer)  
the control unit being enabled to look up delivery addresses in a database comprising valid postal delivery addresses, validate a user-provided address, and control the operation of the printing device according to the validated address, and the control unit further being enabled to receive commands from a customer via the global computer network, (CPU)

the means for OCR being enabled to read a text on an item delivered to the system and communicate a content of the text to the central data processing unit. (fig5, element 102; CPU).

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**As Per Claims 2-4:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Identity information for the customer; (col. 2, lines 43-45)

**As Per Claim 5:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Electronic scale; (fig 2, element 22)

**As Per Claim 6:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Guide track roll under weight device; (fig3, element 46 & 76)

**As Per Claims 7-8, 62:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Card reader; (fig 2, element 30)

**As Per Claims 9-10:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Printer; (fig 3, element 90)

**As Per Claims 11-14, 30-32:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Printed on platform; (fig 1, element 20)

**As Per Claims 15, 20:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Magnetic card reader, (fig2, element 30)

**As Per Claim 16:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

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- Accepting payment from customer, (col2, lines 43-47)

**As Per Claims 17-19, 22, 29, 34, 42, 59, 60, 61:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Central Processing Unit (fig5, element 102)

**As Per Claim 21:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Security, (fig 3, element 50)

**As Per Claims 23, 27-28, 39, 40:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

In regards to figure 3:

- Inner Doors and Closing Doors (52, 54,56)
- Pivot point (68)
- First and Second links connected to inner doors (64,66,70,72)
- Motor that operates in rotary direction (58)
- Guide structure that guides the parcel on the tracks (46,48)
- Storage area (14)
- Col 4, 47-65, describes the mechanical mechanism.

**As Per Claims 24, 41:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Input/Output devices throughout the system ;(col. 5, 50-53)
- Electronic Scale; (fig 1, element 22)

**As Per Claim 25:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

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- Scale; (fig 10, element 22)

**As Per Claim 26:**

Ramsden 464 discloses:

- Conveyor; (fig 10, element 242)
- Scale; (fig 10, element 22)
- CPU, (fig 102)
- Storage area (fig 3, element 14)

**As Per Claim 35, 44, 54:**

*Ramsden (014) discloses:*

An item check-in system comprising

a control unit having (Micro Processor; fig 17, element 382)

a central data processing unit, (CPU; fig 5, element 102) and

data storage means,

means for communicating with a global computer network, (CPU; fig 5, element 102) and

means for OCR (optical character recognition),

the system further comprising

an item receiving unit having (Input, element 386)

a cylinder shell part defining an interior cavity of said part, the shell part having an opening defined therein for allowing items to pass between the exterior and the interior of said part, the cylinder shell part being arranged pivotally about a substantially vertical axis of symmetry of said cylinder shell part,

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a front plate part being fixedly arranged and having an opening defined therein for allowing items to pass the front plate part,

the cylinder shell part and the front plate part being arranged in close proximity in such a way that the openings of said parts at a receiving angular position of the cylinder shell part are aligned so as to allow for items to pass both openings and so that the opening of said front plate part at one or more discharge angular positions of the cylinder shell part is closed by the cylinder shell part,

the item receiving unit further having drive means for turning the cylinder shell part between said angular positions, the operation of the drive means being controlled by the control unit,

the control unit further being enabled to receive commands from a customer via the global computer network,

the means for OCR being enabled to read a text on an item delivered to the system and communicate a content of the text to the central data processing unit.

Ramsden (464) discloses:

- Inner Doors and Closing Doors (52, 54,56)
- Pivot point (68)
- First and Second links connected to inner doors (64,66,70,72)
- Motor that operates in rotary direction (58)
- Guide structure that guides the parcel on the tracks (46,48)
- Storage area (14)
- Conveyor Belt (fig 16, elements 338, 340) Mounted to outer housing by pivotal assembly (col.12, lines42-47)

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Ramsden (014) teaches how the system is programmed to interface with customers by providing the programming input via the program input device (col.18, lines 52-55) and by describing the pivot mounted to the hinge (col.17, lines 39-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Ramsden (464) method and system in conjunction with Ramsden (014) method and system to emulate a invention that deals with automatic parcel shipping machine, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

**As Per Claims 36-38, 72:**

Ramsden (014) discloses:

- Weighting system; (fig 13 &14, elements 310 and 356)
- Weighting system; (col.17, lines 21-30)
- Conveyor Belt; (fig 13 and 14, elements 340)

**As Per Claims 43, 55:**

Ramsden (014) discloses:

A method of performing customer check-in of postal items using a system according to any of the preceding claims, the method comprising the following steps:

the customer enters relevant data to the system via a global computer network,  
fig5, element 102, CPU)

the customer enters the postal item into an item receiving unit, (fig 17, element 386)

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the customer identifies himself,

the customer pays for the postal service using a payment device of the system,

and

a printing device controlled by the control unit prints a delivery address. (fig 18A,

element 534, print label)

**As Per Claim 45:**

Ramsden (014) discloses:

- Print Label (fig 18A, element 534)

**As Per Claim 46:**

Ramsden (014) discloses:

- Package Weight and Dimension Measurements (fig 18A, elements 514)

**As Per Claims 47-48:**

Ramsden (014) discloses:

- Conveyor Belt (fig 16, elements 338, 340)

**As Per Claim 49:**

Ramsden (014) discloses:

- Identification Information (fig 18A, element 506)

**As Per Claims 50-53, 56:**

Ramsden (014) discloses:

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- Accepting and storing parcels and packages (fig 11 and 12, element 312, 314, 318)

**As Per Claim 57-58:**

Ramsden (014) discloses:

- Receipt Printer (fig 5, element 26)

**As Per Claims 63-71:**

Ramsden (014) discloses:

- Services Personnel Input (fig 21, element 386)
- Validating Steps (fig 18B, fig 19 and fig 22)

## **Conclusion**

The prior art that was cited hasn't been used in conducting a decision but has been considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner Jon Bass can be reached at (571) 272-6905 between the hours of 9-6pm Monday through Friday. The fax number where the application is being process is (703) 872-9306.

If for any reason the examiner is unavailable, the immediate supervisor, John Weiss can be reached at (571) 272-6812.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks


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